Elections Saskatchewan

Athabasca By-Election - October 26, 1998

101-04741/

SASKATCHEWAN

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

March 26, 2001

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
129 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Honourable Speaker:

Pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996*, I am honoured to submit the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the by-election held on October 26, 1998, in the provincial constituency of Athabasca.

The Report presents by-election financial activities by registered political party and candidate. This Report also provides an overview of election administration and official voting results by polling division. Also included is summary data for election related expenditures of Elections Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,

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Call of By-Election

Pursuant to subsection 35(b) of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, Mr. Harold (Buckley) Belanger, Saskatchewan Liberal Association, vacated his seat in the constituency of Athabasca on September 2, 1998. On September 28, 1998, pursuant to an Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a Writ of Election was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer to Mr. Robert Desjarlais, constituency returning officer. The Writ ordered that the by-election be held on Monday, October 26, 1998. An Election Calendar for the Athabasca by-election is included on the last page of the Official Report.

Prior to the October 26, 1998 by-election, standing in the Legislative Assembly included: 41 New Democrat, 8 Saskatchewan Party, 5 Liberal, 3 Independent and 1 vacant.

Constituency Boundaries

The Athabasca constituency boundary was enacted in 1994 under *The Representation Act, 1994*, on the recommendation of the Constituency Boundaries Commission, 1993, as established under *The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993*. Polling divisions for purposes of the Athabasca by-election included twenty-six (26) regular polls. The Athabasca constituency polling subdivision map and Directory of Communities are set out in Appendices I and V, respectively.

Registered Political Party and Candidate Nomination

At the time of the Athabasca by-election, the Office recognized the existence of five (5) political parties in the Register of Political Parties, as maintained pursuant to section 231 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the "Act"). On October 10, 1998, nomination of candidates concluded. At close of nomination, only three (3) of the Province's registered political parties nominated candidates, as follows:

Candidate	Registered Political Party[1]	Abbreviation
Harold (Buckley) Belanger	New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	New Democratic Party (N.D.P.)
Winston McKay	Saskatchewan Liberal Association	Liberal
Tyson Delorme	The Saskatchewan Party	The Saskatchewan Party

Each of the registered political parties' chief official agents and candidate business managers for the by-election were as follows:

Registered Political Party	Chief Official Agent
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	Steven Bobiash
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	F. William Johnson
The Saskatchewan Party	Donald Morgan

[1] The following Athabasca By-Election Appendices abbreviate the names of the Province's registered political parties as follows: New Democratic Party, Sask. Section - N.D.P.; Saskatchewan Liberal Association - L.; The Saskatchewan Party - Sask.

Candidate	Business Manager
Harold (Buckley) Belanger (N.D.P.)	Yvonne Daigneault
Winston McKay (L.)	Ted Koskie
Tyson Delorme (Sask.)	Lyle Hewitt

Enumeration

From the 28th of September through to the 7th of October, enumeration of eligible electors was conducted for the constituency's twenty-six polling divisions. Pursuant to section 26 of the Act, constituency enumerators sat on October 22, 1998 to make necessary revisions to the voters' lists. As a result of these efforts, 5,550 Athabasca residents were declared eligible to vote, as established on the revised voters' list. In addition, pursuant to section 68 of the Act, eligible electors not included on the revised voters' list were entitled to vote by declaration.

Polling

On the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th days of October, four (4) advance polls were conducted in the Athabasca constituency. To facilitate electorate participation, special polling stations were established in three (3) hospitals. Regular polling stations were open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CST on October 26, 1998, enabling the constituency's 5,550 eligible voters the opportunity to exercise their democratic franchise. Eligible voters unable to attend either a regular, special or advance poll were entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

Electoral Results

Unofficial electoral results were announced on the evening of October 26, 1998, resulting in Mr. Harold (Buckley) Belanger, New Democrat, being declared member elect. Deposits were forfeited by the Liberal and Saskatchewan Party candidates, pursuant to section 47 of the Act, for not obtaining at least one half of the total number of valid votes cast for the candidate elected.

On November 7, 1998, the constituency returning officer tabulated the results of votes cast in the advance polls, special provision polls and by absentee ballot. These figures were then reflected in the constituency results concluding the final count. Upon completion of the final count, on November 18, 1998, the constituency returning officer made a Return to the Writ of Election. On August 6, 1999, the Office published in *The Saskatchewan Gazette* (Vol. 95, No. 31) notice of receipt of the Return to the Writ and the name of the candidate elected.

Registered Political Party and Candidate Financial Reporting

Pursuant to section 251 of the Act, audited Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses, Form E-524, were required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer within six (6) months of polling day (April 27, 1999).

Under section 261 of the Act, candidates were required to file an audited Candidate's Return of Election Expenses, Form E-412, with the constituency returning officer, for subsequent forwarding to the Chief Electoral Officer, within three (3) months of the candidate returned being declared elected (February 8, 1999). Pursuant to the Act, the constituency returning officer published, in prescribed form, a summary of all returns respecting candidate election expenses prior to March 10, 1999.

i) Registered Political Parties

As a northern constituency, the maximum amount of money that could be spent by a registered political party in the Athabasca by-election, as set out in section 243 of the Act, was $39,584.00. A registered political party that endorsed a candidate who obtained fifteen (15) per cent or more of all valid votes cast in the by-election and whose chief official agent filed a Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses,[2] pursuant to section 264 of the Act, was entitled to receive a reimbursement of a portion of its election expenses from the Province's General Revenue Fund. The amount reimbursed to a qualifying political party was the lesser of either (a) $13,194.67 or (b) one third of its election expenses.

All participating parties in the Athabasca by-election filed their duly audited Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses on or before April 27, 1999. Contributions made to political parties are not listed in the Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses but are set out in each party's fiscal period return, filed in accordance with section 250 of the Act. Appendix II sets out a summary of eligible expenses incurred by the registered political parties in Athabasca and the amounts paid in respect of each party who qualified for reimbursement.

ii) Candidates

Candidates seeking election in Athabasca were limited in the amount of money that they could expend. Again, as a northern constituency, a candidate seeking election was entitled to spend, pursuant to section 252 of the Act, either (a) the sum of $52,778.00 or (b) the sum obtained by multiplying the number of eligible voters in the constituency (5,550) by $5.28, whichever sum was larger. A candidate who obtained fifteen (15) per cent or more of all valid votes cast in Athabasca and whose business manager filed with the constituency returning officer a Candidate's Return of Election Expenses,[3] pursuant to section 265 of the Act, was entitled to reimbursement of a portion of their eligible election expenses. The amount reimbursed to a qualifying candidate was an amount equal to one half of the candidate's election expenses to a maximum of $26,389.00.

All candidates filed their returns respecting contributions received and election expenses incurred in the course of the by-election, duly audited, on or before February 8, 1999. On the 9th of April, 1999, the Office published in *The Saskatchewan Gazette* (Vol. 95, No. 14) a summary of candidate contributions received and expenditures incurred in Athabasca, as well as the amounts paid in respect of each candidate who qualified for reimbursement. Such contributions, expenditures and reimbursements are reported in Appendix III.

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[2] Pursuant to subsection 267(3) of the Act, auditing services rendered in respect of preparation of a report pertaining to a Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses is eligible for a maximum reimbursable allowance of $2,026.00.

[3] Pursuant to subsection 267(6) of the Act, auditing services rendered in respect of preparation of a report pertaining to a Candidate's Return of Election Expenses is eligible for a maximum reimbursable allowance of $658.00.

Elections Saskatchewan Expenditures

The total cost of conducting the October 26, 1998 by-election in Athabasca was $96,476.13. This figure is inclusive of, and reported by, administrative and constituency expenditure. See Appendix IV for an itemization of particular expenditures incurred in each of these two categories. Should further constituency expenditure specifics be required, refer to the Detail of Expenditures *The Election Act, 1996* Provincial Constituencies Fiscal Year 1998-1999, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 17, 1999.

Documentation

Pursuant to section 232 of the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer is obliged to hold, in addition to the information contained in the Register of Political Parties, all original financial particulars concerning registered political parties' fiscal period and election expenses documentation for the purposes of public inspection. Also held are the returns and the original financial documentation regarding individual candidate election expenses, pursuant to section 262 of the Act. Such information is available for public inspection during regular office hours at Elections Saskatchewan.

Election Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Writ of Election:		**-34** September 22	**-33** September 23	**-32** September 24	**-31** September 25	**-30** September 26
Minimum Writ Period: (28 days) The minimum number of days between issue of the Writ of Election and Nomination Day is 11 clear days. (The date fixed for issuing the Writ of Election and the date fixed for Nomination Day are to be excluded (clause 31(3)(b) and subsection (4)).						
Maximum Writ Period: (34 days) The maximum number of days between issue of the Writ of Election and Nomination Day is 17 clear days. (The date fixed for issuing the Writ of Election and the date fixed for Nomination Day are to be excluded (clause 31(3)(b) and subsection (4)).						
-29 September 27	**-28** September 28	**-27** September 29	**-26** September 30	**-25** October 1	**-24** October 2	**-23** October 3
	WRIT ISSUES Date of issue of Writ of Election Commence accepting nomination of candidates Enumeration Schools s. 31(2), (3)(b), s. 44		Print election Proclamation Enumeration		Begin monitoring each enumerator's progress	Last day to post election Proclamation • Returning Officer's Office • Post Offices in constituency s. 34(3)
-22 October 4	**-21** October 5	**-20** October 6	**-19** October 7	**-18** October 8	**-17** October 9	**-16** October 10
Check completed E-200A and begin data entry of preliminary voters' lists		Photocopy secondary voters' lists (E-200) to be distributed to each candidate as available	Enumeration completed; telephone C.E.O. with number of names enumerated	Commence selection of voters to act as deputy returning officers, poll clerks and alternates	Reproduction of secondary Voters' Lists completed (-18) Forward 3 copies (5 copies Northern constituencies) of each polling division list to enumerator; 10 copies including desk copy to known candidates; 5 copies to C.E.O. s. 25(1)(a), (b), s. 139(5)	**NOMINATION DAY** Facsimile/Telephone C.E.O. re candidates • Furnish to Candidates list of candidates and enumerators s. 31(3)(b) s. 35(3), s. 44(1), s. 51(1)
-15 October 11	**-14** October 12	**-13** October 13	**-12** October 14	**-11** October 15	**-10** October 16	**-9** October 17
Arrange for publication of candidates nominated Arrange for printing of ballots s. 35, s. 51(2)	***THANKSGIVING DAY*** Secondary Voters' Lists, including list of enumerators, to be publicly displayed in the head office of (rural - each municipality in the constituency or urban - the municipality in which the constituency is situated) and in the constituency Returning Officer's Office (approximately sixteen (16) days before election day) • Commence accepting revisions to the secondary Voters' Lists s. 25(1)(b)		Last day to receive Absentee Voter Applications s. 87(3)	Furnish to deputy returning officers (advance and regular polls) and candidates list of absentee voters to whom ballot paper was forwarded s. 88(3), (5)	D.R.O. Schools	Last day for enumerator to post secondary Voters' List within polling division - Northern constituencies s. 139(5)
-8 October 18	**-7** October 19	**-6** October 20	**-5** October 21	**-4** October 22	**-3** October 23	**-2** October 24
Election officials and campaign workers should be encouraged to vote at advance poll Last day for applicant voter to receive absentee ballot paper and related materials, if mailed s. 88(2)(b)	Last day for applicant voter to receive absentee ballot paper and related materials, if delivered s. 88(2)(a)	**ADVANCE POLL** **3 p.m. - 10 p.m. C.S.T.** s. 132(a)	**ADVANCE POLL** **3 p.m. - 10 p.m. C.S.T.** s. 132(a)	**ADVANCE POLL** **3 p.m. - 10 p.m. C.S.T.** **REVISION DAY** **2 p.m. - 10 p.m. C.S.T.** s. 26, s. 132(a)	**ADVANCE POLL** **3 p.m. - 10 p.m. C.S.T.** Prepare to receive enumerators' expense claims s. 132(a)	**ADVANCE POLL** **12 noon - 7 p.m. C.S.T.** Deadline for enumerator to deliver official Voters' List to deputy returning officer s. 28(3), s. 132(a)
-1 October 25	**0** October 26	**+1** October 27	**+2** October 28	**+3** October 29	**+4** October 30	**+5** October 31
Receive advance poll voter information and forward to applicable deputy returning officers	**ELECTION DAY** **9 a.m. - 8 p.m. C.S.T.** Ensure arrangements for the display and tabulation of unofficial results Facsimile/Telephone results of election to C.E.O. s. 82	Ensure all ballot boxes and election materials are received from deputy returning officers	Prepare to receive deputy returning officers', poll clerks' etc. expense claims			Last day for forwarding Imprest Account and remaining financial materials to C.E.O.
+6 November 1	**+7** November 2	**+8** November 3	**+9** November 4	**+10** November 5	**+11** November 6	**+12** November 7
				12 noon deadline for receipt of absentee voter certificate envelopes (postmarked not later than 8 p.m. on election day) s. 89(5)(b), (c)		**FINAL COUNT** by Returning Officer s. 31(3)(e), s. 145
+13 November 8	**+14** November 9	**+15** November 10	**+16** November 11	**+17** November 12	**+18** November 13	**+19** November 14
	Collection of ballot boxes and election materials by C.E.O. • Vacate office space		***REMEMBRANCE DAY*** Last day to request a recount or an addition 155(2)(c)			
+20 November 15	**+21** November 16	**+22** November 17	**+23** November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21
			RETURN TO THE WRIT Forward election Return and other documents to C.E.O. s. 31(3)(f), s. 171			

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Vote Summary by Constituency Polling Division: Athabasca

Appendix I

Polling Location			Votes Cast For			Ballots	
Poll No.	Name	Eligible Voters	Winston McKay L.	Harold (Buckley) Belanger N.D.P.	Tyson Delorme Sask.	Total Counted	Rejected
1	Camsell Portage	19	1	9	2	12	-
2	Uranium City	91	3	16	-	19	-
3	Fond du Lac	351	4	7	3	14	1
4	Stony Rapids	98	2	17	1	20	-
5A	Black Lake	350	4	35	2	41	1
5B	Black Lake	342	4	35	2	41	1
6	Descharme Lake	13	-	10	-	10	-
7	La Loche North	121	4	122	2	128	1
8	La Loche Centre	309	4	97	-	101	-
9	La Loche South	46	2	34	-	36	-
10	Garson Lake	17	-	14	-	14	-
11	Turnor Lake	243	6	84	5	95	-
12	Michel Village	59	3	28	-	31	-
13	St. George's Hill	65	3	23	2	28	-
14	Dillon	300	8	59	2	69	-
15A	Buffalo Narrows	324	5	116	1	122	-
15B	Buffalo Narrows	318	10	113	4	127	-
16A	Ile-a-la-Crosse	204	-	182	-	182	1
16B	Ile-a-la-Crosse	235	5	197	1	203	-
17	Canoe Narrows	356	3	77	-	80	1
18	Cole Bay	98	3	44	2	49	-
19	Jans Bay	87	-	39	-	39	-
20	Patuanak	317	-	41	-	41	1
21	Pinehouse	386	9	205	4	218	1
22	Besnard Lake - Cancelled						
23A	Beauval	247	2	129	1	132	-
23B	Beauval	237	1	108	1	110	-
24	Dore Lake	38	3	13	3	19	-
25	Sled Lake	22	-	7	-	7	-
26	Green Lake	257	4	85	2	91	-
	Buffalo Narrows Advance		-	23	1	24	-
	Green Lake Advance		-	13	-	13	-
	Ile-a-la-Crosse Advance		-	46	-	46	-
	La Loche Advance		4	115	8	127	-
	Absentee Ballots		-	-	-	-	-
	Hospital/Remand Ballots		-	10	-	10	8
	Totals	5,550	97	2,153	49	2,299	16
	Candidate Elected - Harold (Buckley) Belanger						
	Plurality	2,056					
	% Who Voted	41.57%					
	% By Party		4.22%	93.65%	2.13%		

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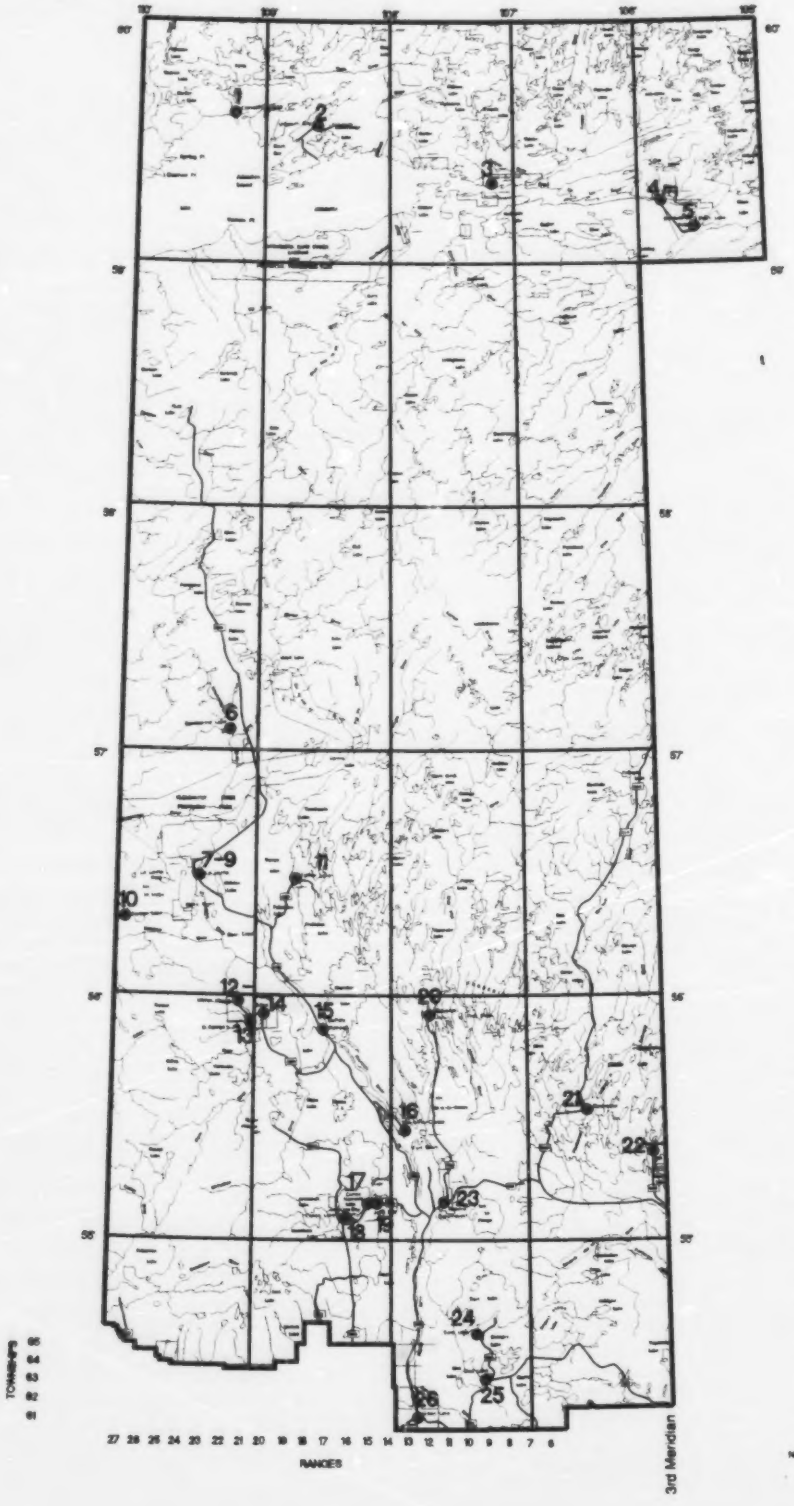
Constituency of Athabasca



NOTE: FIRST EDITION

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES ARE DRAWN PURSUANT TO THE REPRESENTATION ACT, 1994 PUBLISHED BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER URBAN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AS OF JULY 1, 1999

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Summary of Expenses Incurred and Reimbursements Paid: Registered Political Parties

Registered Political Party	Maximum Expenses Allowable	Petty Expenses	Hire of Premises	Advertising
Liberal	39,584.00	–	–	–
New Democratic Party (N.D.P.)	39,584.00	–	–	–
The Saskatchewan Party	39,584.00	–	–	–
Totals	118,752.00	–	–	–

(a) Unpaid claims, if paid, are included in the total of expenses used for the calculation of reimbursement; disputed claims are not.
(b) Party failed to qualify for reimbursement pursuant to subsection 264(1) of *The Election Act, 1996*.

Appendix II

Services	Goods Supplied	Travel and Hire of Vehicle	Unpaid or Disputed Claims(a)	Total of Expenses	Amount of Reimbursement
–	–	–	–	–	(b)
–	–	4,976.01	–	–	1,658.67
–	–	–	–	–	(b)
–	–	4,976.01	–	–	1,658.67

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Summary of Contributions Received, Expenses Incurred and Reimbursements Paid: Candidates and Business Managers

Candidate	Contributions Received	Maximum Expenses Allowable	Candidate's Personal Expenses(a)	Candidate's Campaign Expenses	Petty Expenses	Hire of Premises
Athabasca						
(Eligible Voters - 5,550)						
Winston McKay (L.)	4,442.70	52,778.00	–	2,798.32	–	–
Harold (Buckley) Belanger (N.D.P.)	10,950.00	52,778.00	–	790.98	52.00	300.00
Tyson Delorme (Sask.)	–	52,778.00	–	–	–	–
Totals	15,392.70	158,334.00	–	3,589.30	52.00	300.00

(a) Candidate's personal expenses are not included in the total of expenses.
(b) Unpaid claims, if paid, are included in the total of expenses used for the calculation of reimbursement; disputed claims are not.
(c) Candidate failed to qualify for reimbursement pursuant to subsection 265(1) of *The Election Act, 1996*.

Advertising	Services	Goods Supplied	Travel and Hire of Vehicle	Unpaid or Disputed Claims(b)	Total of Expenses	Amount of Reimbursement
–	767.58	567.09	–	–	4,132.99	(c)
1,141.61	3,333.41	76.48	4,262.69	–	9,957.17	4,978.59
–	–	–	–	–	–	(c)
1,141.61	4,100.99	643.57	4,262.69	–	14,090.16	4,978.59

Elections Saskatchewan Expenditures

Appendix IV

By-Election: Constituency of Athabasca

I.	Elections Saskatchewan	
	A) Administration	
	(i) Casual Salaries	$ 332.44
	(ii) Information Technology	600.00
	(iii) Advertising	12,832.54
	(iv) Printing/Duplicating	2,485.40
	(v) Travel/Business	281.90
	(vi) Transportation	730.08
	B) Registered Political Parties	
	(i) Reimbursement of Registered Political Parties' Election Expenses	1,658.67
	Elections Saskatchewan Expenditure	$18,921.03
II.	Constituency	
	A) Election Officials	
	(i) Returning Officer	$ 4,340.00
	(ii) Election Clerk	3,000.00
	(iii) Enumerators	6,556.14
	(iv) Polls (Officials/Rental of Space)	18,778.17
	B) Administration	
	(i) General Contractual Services	7,082.50
	(ii) Rent of Ground/Buildings/Office Space	500.00
	(iii) Rent of Office Equipment	888.10
	(iv) Telephones	2,170.89
	(v) Miscellaneous Materials/Supplies	95.23
	(vi) Advertising	225.00
	(vii) Printing/Duplicating (Ballots/Proclamation/Voters' List)	2,006.25
	(viii) Travel/Business	1,495.61
	(ix) Transportation	24,203.30
	C) Candidates	
	(i) Reimbursement of Candidates' Election Expenses	4,978.59
	(ii) Reimbursement of Auditors' Fees	1,235.32
	Constituency Expenditure	$77,555.10
	Total By-Election Expenditures	**$96,476.13**

Eligible Voters 5,550
Cost Per Voter $17.38 (17.383086)

Community	
Bear Creek	Northern Settlement
Beauval	Northern Village
Black Point	Northern Settlement
Buffalo Narrows	Northern Village
Camsell Portage	Northern Settlement
Canoe Lake	Hamlet
Cole Bay	Northern Village
Descharme Lake	Northern Settlement
Dillon	Hamlet
Dore Lake	Northern Hamlet
Eldorado	Hamlet
Garson Lake	Northern Settlement
Green Lake	Northern Village
Ile-a-la-Crosse	Northern Village
Jans Bay	Northern Village
La Loche	Northern Village
Michel Village	Northern Hamlet
Patuanak	Northern Hamlet
Pinehouse	Northern Village
Sled Lake	Northern Settlement
St. George's Hill	Northern Hamlet
Stony Rapids	Northern Hamlet
Tumor Lake	Northern Hamlet
Uranium City	Northern Settlement